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CLASSIFICATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 20 August 1948

SUBJECT Circular Received by the Ecuadoran Communist Party from the Latin American Section of the French Communist Party

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1. On 2 August 1948, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador received a circular from the Latin American Committee of the French Communist Party concerning the possibility of having Latin American Communists support the presidential aspirations of Henry Wallace in the United States. It stated that Wallace was securing more sympathy of the masses in the United States, but that these masses were not yet fully conscious of the role the new "Third Party" would play in the political course of the world. This circular recommended that the progressive element in Latin America inform the North Americans of its interest in Wallace, who should be considered the only guarantee for the maintenance of world peace and for improving the relations between the Americas.
2. The Ecuadoran Communist Party was requested to investigate and study the local situation in an effort to determine the best means of organizing a pro-Wallace campaign. The circular specifically requested that the campaign should be waged by a progressive group rather than by the Communist Party, and it presented practical ways of carrying out the project. Student groups, labor syndicates, and similar organizations were suggested as being the best "fronts".
3. Each Secretary General was asked to report to the Committee in Paris, giving local reactions to the proposal and methods to be used in implementing it. It was not expected that all the countries would be able to follow one pattern, and each was expected to develop the most appropriate methods to be used.
4. Primitivo Barreto, Secretary General of the Ecuadoran Communist Party, stated that no decision would be made on the French request, pending the arrival in Quito of Pedro Saad and Enrique Gil Gilbert on about 9 August 1948. Preliminary discussion within the Central Committee indicated that it was considered desirable to promote Wallace's cause, but that it would be difficult to do so without revealing some Communist participation, and thereby hinder the program. The student element was considered to be the most fertile ground for this propaganda.

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